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KING ABDALLAH and Palestine

1. A certain SHARANI, brother of Nisan SHARANI, well known in Palestine, summarized the Palestine situation for source as follows:

- a. Most Palestinian Arabs have agreed to forget their petty differences in view of the seriousness of the situation.
- b. Leaders of the opposition to the Grand Mufti announced this decision to the Grand Mufti.
- c. In spite of this decision, the Grand Mufti continues to show lack of confidence in the opposition. What arms he could send to Palestine recently were distributed exclusively among his own supporters.
- d. King ABDALLAH knows that his Arab Legion is the only effective force in the country. He has therefore decided to keep this trump card in hand until the last minute. The time is coming when the Palestinians will beg him for protection.
- e. Arab officials in Palestinian Government posts have already called for help from King ABDALLAH.
- f. Many of the inhabitants of Gaza, Hebron, Habbas, Jamis and Tulkarm are opposed to the Mufti.

(Para. 1: [] B-5; 17 Jan 1948)

2. Yusuf Pasha al-ATHARH who passed through Amman a few days ago told source that King ABDALLAH was not ready to do anything at present about Greater Syria; he awaits developments in Palestine. About twenty days ago Sultan Pasha al-ATHARH sent an envoy to King ABDALLAH to say that the Drus were ready to act, but needed arms. This envoy was kept waiting in Amman for about 15 days. At the end the King said he would not do anything in Syria proper before the situation in Palestine was clarified.

Kamal Bey KAHY, Drus member of Syrian Parliament told source that Fawzi QANUJI had failed in efforts to get the Drus to volunteer for the liberation of Palestine. Sultan Pasha al-ATHARH told Fawzi: "No Drus could possibly leave Syria to

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Palestine as long as Shukri QUNWATLI, Jamil MARDAN and Ahmed SHARABATI were in power in Damascus.

(Para. 2: [] ; D-5; January 18, 1948)

3. A man arriving here from Jerusalem today (January 18) reported that there is strong feeling among the various groups of Arab leaders against the Nurti and the NUSAYBI family. They are now requesting that the forces of King ABDALLAH be allowed to occupy all the Arab parts of Palestine, and that the Arab Legion be increased by recruiting all Arab youth, who would, in military uniform, occupy Palestine, force the Jews to surrender, and end the trouble. The NUSAYBI groups oppose this, believing that all Palestine would then be occupied by ABDALLAH who would annex Palestine to Transjordan with British help and thus bring about the British scheme for a Greater Syria.

(Para. 3: [] (Pal); D-5; January 18, 1948)

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4. Akram Bey GAYLANI told source that King ABDALLAH had called him to Amman through the Transjordanian Legation in Beirut. Although a Syrian national, Akram Bey is travelling by air on the basis of a Transjordanian pass issued to him by the Transjordanian Legation. When asked about the reason for the trip, Akram Bey answered, "Greater Syria. I cannot say anything more because I do not know more."

(Para. 4: [] ; D-5; January 20, 1948)

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